

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USUN N 01966 060011Z

21

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 087770

R 052344Z MAY 76
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7341
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1966

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UN, XF
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION BETWEEN SYRIAN AMBASSADOR AND GOVERNOR
SCRANTON

REF: USUN 1537

1. SYRIAN UN PERMREP ALLAF CALLED ON GOVERNOR SCRANTON MAY 5, RETURNING SCRANTON'S INTRODUCTORY COURTESY CALL (REFTEL). MAIN SUBJECTS OF DISCUSSION WERE UNDOF EXTENSION AND PLO PARTICIPATION IN GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS.

2. ALLAF SAID HE HAD RECEIVED NO NEW INSTRUCTIONS ON UNDOF. HE ASSUMED SYRIAN POSITION REMAINED UNCHANGED FROM LAST NOVEMBER AND FROM EARLIER THIS YEAR WHEN HE HAD CONSULTED IN DAMASCUS. THUS HE PRESUMED THAT PRESIDENT ASSAD WOULD NOT CONSENT TO EXTENSION OF UNDOF "JUST BECAUSE ANOTHER SIX MONTHS HAD PASSED." SYRIA WOULD NEED SOME DEMONSTRABLE PROGRESS. THIS COULD TAKE FORM OF FORWARD MOVEMENT IN SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MARCH 30 INITIATIVE, OR IT MIGHT INVOLVE SOME AFFIRMATIVE ACTION TOWARD PALESTINE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS. ALLAF ADDED THAT IMPROVEMENT IN US-SYRIAN BILATERAL RELATIONS STEMMING FROM COOPERATION OVER LEBANON MIGHT ALSO BE A FACTOR.

3. DISCUSSION ENSUED OVER PLO PARTICIPATION IN GENEVA PROCESS.

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GOVERNOR SCRANTON EMPHASIZED INHERENT ABSURDITY OF PER-

MITTING ONE PARTY TO TAKE PART IN A NEGOTIATION WHILE IT
REJECTED THE NEGOTIATING CONTEXT. SHOULD PLO BE ALLOWED TO
PARTICIPATE IN GENEVA CONFERENCE WITHOUT ACCEPTING RESOLUTIONS
242 AND 338, IT WOULD BE GIVEN AN ADVANTAGE DENIED EVEN TO
ARAB GOVERNMENTS TAKING PART. ALLAF SAID HE SAW NO POSSIBILITY
OF PLO AGREEING TO THESE RESOLUTIONS UNTIL THEY WERE AMENDED
TO COVER PALESTINIAN POLITICAL RIGHTS.

SCRANTON

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NNN

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